# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4410
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
IMPORT EXPORT OF POPPY SEEDS
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether white poppy seeds are being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum and value of white poppy seeds imported into/exported from the country during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of cultivators of poppy seeds in the country including Rajasthan?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a)&(b): Yes Madam. The details of imports & exports are at Annex.

(c): The poppy seeds are by-products of opium cultivation. The Central Government issues licenses to cultivators for production of opium in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. However, the quantum of production of poppy seeds in the country is insufficient to cater to the domestic demand of the same, leading to imports. The Central Government protects the domestic cultivators of poppy seeds against cheap imports in two ways by:
(i) imposing a customs duty and
(ii) prescribing a minimum tariff value. At present, the customs duty on imported poppy seed is 25.42% ad valorem and the minimum tariff value is fixed at US $ 3255 per MT.